

authority of the master and matron of the Workhouse upon matters which had nothing to do with the treatment of the patients. As to pauper assistants, the Local Government Board had again and again discouraged their employment. Generally, he was in hearty sympathy with the objects of the Association.

We hope the constantly recurring tragedies at Workhouse Infirmaries will serve to impress upon Mr. Chaplin the necessity of something more satisfactory than "hearty sympathy." Instead we want active reform. The *Liverpool Courier* reports another "Shocking Fatality in the Workhouse." An inmate of the Workhouse Infirmary suffering from "pains in the head" committed suicide by jumping from one of the landings into the basement below. It came out at the inquest that there was only one Nurse for six wards, and it was stated that on the night in question there was no Nurse on duty at all from half-past nine to half-past ten. A strong expression of opinion was given that the staff should be increased. We commend this case to Mr. Chaplin's consideration.

The *Lancet*, commenting on the letter which appeared in the *Times* recently, touching on the gossipy tendency of some trained Nurses, says: "One of the earliest lessons a Nurse should learn would be the reverence due to the privacy of human nature in its weakest forms and states." In this we agree. But we do not remember any case in the Courts where a Nurse has been found guilty of betraying professional secrets.

An experienced and well-trained male Nurse writes:—"I was sorry to hear that the meeting, *re* Registration of Nurses, ended as it did. All the men I have seen up to the present are in favour of State Registration; and I think if an individual vote of the Nurses were taken throughout the United Kingdom, three-fourths would be found to be in favour of it. I trust you may see your way clear to take a vote of Nurses at some future period."

We are very glad to find from our correspondent's letter that the male Nurses are interesting themselves in this important professional question. All that is needed is combination, unity and determination, and the matter would soon be put on a right and legal basis. But it is the Nurses themselves who must work out their own professional salvation. A good many

Nurses say, "It will come," or "Somebody will do it." But apathy never carries any cause. The Scotch saying, "What is worth having must aye be bought," is eternally true. And the only way in which Nurses can obtain their legal and professional status will be by devoting time, thought, energy and influence to the subject. When once Nurses realise this, Registration will be an accomplished fact.

The Nurses at Aston Infirmary have good ground for complaint on the question of accommodation. It came up for consideration recently before the Guardians, when it was stated that the only sitting-room provided for the nursing staff was one "used all day by convalescent men, who were continually smoking and spitting upon the floor."

And yet Guardians are always expressing surprise at the difficulty they experience in getting cultivated and highly qualified women to endure such hardships. Now that this gruesome fact of the condition of things has been published, it is hoped action will be taken to provide decent accommodation for the Nurses.

It commonly happens that Boards of Guardians, in advertising for trained Nurses for Union Infirmaries, insert in their advertisement that "the person appointed will be required to possess some knowledge of the care of midwifery cases." It would be interesting to know just what "some knowledge" means. And it would certainly be better for the qualification to be more satisfactorily defined. Either the Nurse is qualified to take care of midwifery cases, or she is not. There is no intermediate stage of knowledge.

MR. PRESTON THOMAS, the Poor-Law Inspector for Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex, and the Wisbech Union in the Isle of Ely, gives in his report some very interesting information on Workhouses and their Infirmaries.

In dealing with trained Nurses in Poor-Law Infirmaries, Mr. Thomas says:—

"I have also frequently had occasion to represent the necessity for improving the nursing arrangements in the Infirmaries, and I am glad to say they have begun, generally, to recognise the impossibility that one paid Nurse can, with only pauper assistance, satisfactorily attend to 30 or 40 patients by day and by night. In many instances additions have been made to the Nursing Staff, but I am bound to say that it has not always been decided to appoint Nurses who have undergone a Hospital training. It has been found that such Nurses, even when they can be procured—and in two instances in my district the widely adver-

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